

# WILLIAM JASPER BOREN SR. AND LUCINA MECHAM



William Jasper Boren Sr., son of Coleman Boren and Malinda Keller, was born at Peoria, Illinois, on December 30, 1837, and died May 16, 1900, at Wallsburg. He came to Utah in 1851 with his parents as pioneers, settling in Provo. His father was a wealthy

man. They had plenty to start across the plains and helped many who were in need.

He married Lucina Mecham on July 3, 1859, at Provo, Utah. Later they were married by Jonathan Duke in the temple. She was the daughter of Moses Mecham and Elvira Derby, pioneers of 1850 with the ox-team company. She was born March 11, 1841, at Lee County, Iowa, and died June 12, 1925, at Provo. Both are buried at Wallsburg.

William was a Seventy and counselor to Presiding Elder William M. Wall of Wallsburg Ward. He was road supervisor and watermaster for 13 years. He served without pay and was a farmer and shingle-maker. He freighted between Fort Laramie and Salt Lake; was also school board member without pay. He was a veteran of the Blackhawk War.

In early life he was a cabinet maker and shoe cobbler. He was first counselor to William Wall and later worked in the Sunday School and MIA. Jasper bought the first surrey in Wallsburg and built many houses in Wallsburg.

Lucina remembers sitting on the Prophet Joseph Smith's lap many times when she was a child and saw the Prophet and his brother Hyrum after they were killed. She recalls how the dogs howled that night. She also made the long journey across the plains in the spring of 1853. They left the Missouri River with two wagons, one yoke of oxen, two unbroken yoke of steers and four cows. Her father had bought stolen oxen and the owner came and took them away, so they only had one wagon and the cows to come with. The Indians were on the warpath, but they were only stopped once by the Indians. The saints gave them food, although it lessened their supply but the Indians left. Buffalo were plentiful and at times the travelers would have to stop and let the herds pass. Three days from Salt Lake, her cousin, Daniel Mecham, met them with a load of food, for they were out of food.

She went to school whenever she could, for she wanted all the education she could get. Schooling wasn't so readily available then as now. They lived in Lehi and Provo.

Lucina learned to spin and weave and used Indigo for blue, cottonwood bark and mahogany bark to dye the yarn for a dress she wove and made for herself. She wove on shares also.

In the spring of 1864 they moved to

Wallsburg, and endured many hardships. Lucina didn't like to see the children without an education, so she had them come to her home so she could teach them. She was the first school teacher in Wallsburg.

She made butter and put in salt brine. This Sister Brown took to Salt Lake and sold for her. Lucina would also make butter and haul to Provo to sell. She sold 200 pounds to a Midway man for \$70.

They had a terrible diphtheria epidemic, during which 23 children died in Wallsburg.

When Jasper became very ill with diabetes. Lucina tried ways to make a living for her family and finally decided to start a mercantile business, and did quite well selling produce to John Greer, later to E. H. Boley of American Fork, who was very helpful to her even though there was a glut on the market for these items. She bought groceries for what she sold, from Boley and sold in Wallsburg. Later she added dishes and granite ware, then shoes and Chipman got her to sell ladies and children's wear. She did well in her business.

In later years she studied music and was ward organist for six years, after she was 50 years old. She was midwife after her Aunt Polly Mecham died and delivered 503 babies besides all other nursing she did.

After her children were reared she felt free to spend time to do temple work, which she did until she was no longer able to. Her son Wilford completed a three-year mission to Germany and another son went on one. Lucina was president of the Primary.

William Jasper Sr. died May 16, 1900, at Wallsburg. She died June 21, 1925, at Provo. Both are buried at Wallsburg.

Their children: William Jasper, Jr., Samuel Leroy, Lucina Izora, Malinda Elvira, Moses Marques, Lorain Jane, Clinton C., Annie Marie, Alma L., Ida Viola, Sarah Minerva, Wilford Wells, and Polly May.

*People, Places and Events*

When events occur for the first time or when people achieve new things there is usually popular acclaim to remember the events or the people. There are many memorable "firsts" in Wallsburg, including the following:

The first school house and church building was constructed inside the fort area and Mrs. Lucina M. Boren was the first school teacher. The first school house outside the fort was the home of Martin Ford, and the first regular school building was on the property of George L. Batty. Miss Josephine Wall was teacher in 1859. Teachers who came to these first schools lived in the homes of Jennie Allred, Susan Davis, Amber Ford and Mrs. John Graham.

Some of the first musicians that played for dances were William Bancroft, dulcimer; George Allred, Amber, Martin and Alfred Ford, James Wheeler and William Davis who played the violin, organ and guitar.

Mrs. Polly Mecham was the first doctor in Wallsburg and used herbs as well as faith and prayer in caring for the sick. Mrs. Annie Mecham, wife of John L. Mecham, also was an early doctor in the area.

The first irrigation ditches were made by W. J. Boren and William Haws.

The first post office was directed by William E. Nuttall and the mail was carried on horseback and carriage by Dixon Greer. The mail route from Wallsburg was to "String Town" or what was later Harry Watson's farm near Charleston. Other postmasters included S. D. Greer, George Dabbling, George P. Garff, Della Mecham, Orpha Wall and Alice C. Graham. Mail carriers included Abram Penrod, Eli Boren, Ellis Boren, Willard Davis, John Wall and Roy Davis.

The first manufacturing was the production of shingles. The first shingle mill was William Nuttall. John Parcell and Elijah Davis also owned an early mill. There were lumber mills and carpenters, including William Ford and I who were especially skilled at manufacturing caskets.

The first piece of machinery brought to Round Vall and reaper owned by Martin Ford, Sr.

The first shoemakers were W. J. Boren, William Burdick. Mr. Boren was also a skilled cabinetmaker. It was owned by Dick Camp, James Allred, Jacob Harris and

The first saw mill was owned by William Penrod, James Wheeler, William G. Nuttall and Daniel Bigelow

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## HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

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